February 24, 2011

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Cc: Ken Salazar, Secretary, Department of Interior
Gary Locke, Secretary, Department of Commerce
Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management
John Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Rowan Gould, Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator from Alaska
Mark Begich, U.S. Senator from Alaska

Dear Administrator Jackson,

We, the undersigned hunting and angling organizations and businesses representing millions of sportsmen, outdoor recreation groups and related businesses, thank you and the EPA for taking the first step in protecting Bristol Bay from the dangers of the proposed Pebble Mine, by starting a scientific assessment of the region's watershed. We look forward to working with the EPA and other decision makers during this public process to determine the fate of Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Our 363 sporting conservation groups, businesses and trade associations also thank you for visiting the Bristol Bay region last year. Your effort to meet with the region's local residents is greatly appreciated, as the world's greatest wild sockeye salmon fishery is facing unprecedented threats from proposed development of a massive mining district. We write today to ask you to use all the tools at your disposal to protect a sport fishing and hunting destination that is unrivaled in America and perhaps the world, for this and future generations of sportsmen and women.

The proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay poses numerous significant and potentially long-lasting threats to one of the world's foremost sport fishing and hunting regions. Specifically, fish habitat (including spawning and breeding grounds), wildlife habitat and recreational areas are all threatened by several hard rock mining proposals - most notably, the Pebble Mine. The potential impact from this type of activity could be severe. It is estimated that the Pebble Mine would produce between 2.5 and 10 billion tons of waste containing elements, such as copper and other heavy metals, that would threaten several fishery areas including spawning and breeding grounds for world-renowned populations of salmon.

If this project moves forward, these toxins would have to be contained and potentially treated in perpetuity - in an area of high seismic activity, which increases the risks tremendously. Because the Pebble property straddles the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages – two of the most productive salmon systems on the planet - any release of this waste into the surface or groundwater has the

potential to severely harm Bristol Bay's salmon and the livelihoods of the sport fishing and hunting business owners, all of whom depend on them for their economic support.

Sport fishing in Bristol Bay generates \$60 million annually; anglers looking for "once in a lifetime" experiences on rivers such as the Nushagak, Mulchatna, Koktuli and Kvichak support more than 800 full-and part-time jobs. Mining activity and increased development associated with mining will detrimentally impact these areas by direct impacts to fish and habitat. Development will also negatively impact opportunities for sport fishing and hunting operations in the area by diminishing the quality of the experience. Despite the remote nature of the region and the costs associated with traveling to it, on a yearly basis up to 65,000 visitors come to Bristol Bay for recreational opportunities to fish, hunt, and view wildlife.

Secretary Salazar and the Obama administration recognized that oil and gas development in this area is simply not worth the risk, the same is true for mining operations in the headwaters of Bristol Bay. The fish and wildlife values in the region, its size and setting, and the national significance of its resources are, in the words of Secretary Salazar and President Obama, "a national treasure that we must protect." The risk to this national treasure is too great and the resource too unique and irreplaceable to allow the Pebble Project to continue forward.

While we thank you for planning an assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed to better understand how future large-scale development projects may affect Bristol Bay, it's not enough. The EPA has the authority under the Clean Water Act to invoke Section 404(c), which would give Bristol Bay the protection it needs from mining and other large-scale developments.

The undersigned organizations and businesses urge EPA to proactively fulfill its mission to protect the environment and human health in Bristol Bay, AK by using its authority under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) to withdraw waters and wetlands in the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed from future specification as disposal sites for dredge and fill activity associated with mining operations. The EPA has an opportunity now to guarantee a future for Bristol Bay that will generate economic opportunities while also conserving sporting traditions for generations to come.

We look forward to working with the EPA and all federal agencies with an interest and role in the future of Bristol Bay's tremendously productive lands and waters.

Sincerely,

National Organizations (15)

American Fly Fishing Trade Association Randi Swisher President

Westminster, CO

American Sportfishing Association Gordon Robertson Vice President Alexandria, VA **Backcountry Hunters and Anglers**

Jim Akenson Executive Director Joseph, OR

Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance

Tim Mauck Co-Director Denver, CO

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Campfire Club of America Leonard J. Vallender Conservation Chair Chappaqua, NY

Dallas Safari Club Ben Carter Executive Director

Dallas, TX

Delta Waterfowl Foundation

John L. Devney Senior Vice President Bismarck, ND

Federation of Fly Fishers

Philip Greenlee

President / Chairman of the Board

Livingston, MT

Izaak Walton League of America

Roger Sears

Executive Board Chair Poolesville, MD

National Wildlife Federation

Jim Adams

Regional Executive Director - Pacific Region

Anchorage, AK

North American Fishing Club

Steve Pennaz Executive Director Minnetonka, MN

North American Hunting Club

Bill Miller

Executive Director Minnetonka, MN

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Tom Franklin

Director of Policy and Government Relations

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Trout Unlimited Chris Wood

President / Chief Executive Officer

Arlington, VA

Wildlife Forever Douglas Grann

President / Chief Executive Officer

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Alaska (75)

3 Rivers Fly & Tackle Steve Runyan Manager Wasilla, AK

Alagnak Lodge Michael Santelli

Guide

King Salmon, AK

Alaska Alpine Adventures

Dan Oberlatz Owner/Operator Anchorage, AK

Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Mark Richards Co-Chair

Eastern Interior (Bush), AK

Alaska Bear Guides Scott Newman President Petersburg, AK

Alaska Fly Anglers, Inc.

John Hohl Owner Soldotna, AK

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Alaska Fly Fish Jason Williams

Owner

Anchorage, AK

Alaska Fly Fishing Goods

Brad Elfers Owner Juneau, AK

Alaska Glacier Guides, Inc, Alisha Rosenbruch-Decker

President Gustavus, AK

Alaska King Salmon Adventures

Scott Weedman

Owner

Dillingham, AK

Alaska Rainbow Adventures

Paul Hansen Owner Wasilla, AK

Alaska Rainbow Lodge Ron and Sharon Hayes Owners/Operators King Salmon, AK

Alaska Salmon Camp, Inc.

Kent Anderson President Dillingham, AK

Alaska Sportsman's Bear Trail Lodge

Nanci Morris-Lyon Managing Partner King Salmon, AK

Alaska Trophy Fishing Safaris

John & Melissa Carlin
Owners / Operators

Homer, AK

Alaska West Andrew Bennett President Quinhagak, AK

Alaska Wilderness Trips, Inc.

Clark Whitney, Sr.

Owner Soldotna, AK

Alaska's Boardwalk Lodge

Brad Steuart Owner

Thorne Bay, AK

Alaska's Wild River Lodge

Seth Kroenke Owner / Operator Port Alsworth, AK

Alaskan Leader Tours Kimberly Riedel President

Kodiak, AK

Alaskan Wilderness Outfitting Company

Tom & Katie Prijatel

Owners Cordova, AK

Arctic Wild, LLC Bill Mohrwinkel

Owner

Fairbanks, AK

Baranof Wilderness Lodge

Mike Trotter Owner / Operator

Sitka, AK

Beyond Boundaries Expeditions

Mike Trotter Owner / Operator

Sitka, AK

Blue Fly Bed & Breakfast and Guide Service

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Blue Mountain Lodge Tracy & Linda Vrem Owners/Operators Becharof Lake, AK

Blueberry Island Lodge

George Riddle Owner / Operator

Igiugig, AK

Branch River Air Service, Inc.

George V. Hartley

President

King Salmon, AK

Brightwater Alaska, Inc.

Chuck Ash President Anchorage, AK

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Dillingham, AK

Bristol Bay Lodge Steve Laurent General Manager Dillingham, AK

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James Boyce

Owner / Master Guide Port Alexander, AK

Chinook Tours Felix Schneider

Owner

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Classic Casting Adventures

Tad Kisaka Owner / Guide Sitka, AK

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Owner Iliamna, AK

Crystal Creek Lodge

Dan Michels Owner

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Owner Cantwell, AK

Dierick's Tsiu River Lodge

Greg Dierick Owner Yakutat, AK

EPIC Angling & Adventure, LLC

Rus Schwausch

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Fishing Bear Lodge

Justin Johns Owner

Dillingham, AK

Glacier Guides, Inc. Jimmie C. Rosenbruch Owner / Master Guide

Gustavus, AK

Great Alaska Adventure Vacations

Kent John President Sterling, AK

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Vice President/Manager

Yakutat, AK

Igiugig Lodge, LLC Brad Waitman Owner / Operator Igiugig, AK

Jake's Nushagak Salmon Camp

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Kulik Lodge/Katmai Park, AK

Katmai Guide Service

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President

Kulik Lodge/Katmai Park, AK

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Dwight Kramer Chairman Kenai, AK

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Old Harbor, AK

Kvichak Anglers
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Mission Creek Lodge, LLC

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Anchorage, AK

The Alaska Sportsman's Lodge

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Westwind Guide Service/AK Big Game Hunting

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Owner Wasilla, AK

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Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife

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White Mountain Lakes Foundation

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Arkansas (3)

Southern Council (Federation of Fly Fishers)

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Lakeview, AR

Women's Fly Fishing of Japan

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Conservation Committee

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Greenhighlander Flyfishing

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USAontheFly.com Ken Van Every

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Great Lakes Fly Shop

John Fehnel Owner Duluth, MN

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Brent Gurtek President Duluth, MN

Minnesota Division (Izaak Walton League of America)

Curt Leitz President Saint Paul, MN

Sporting Life Adventure Travel

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Vice President – International Operations

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Paul Goodwin President Springfield, MO

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Canvasfish.com Derek DeYoung

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Fishing with Larry Guy Schoenborn Vice President

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Gallatin River Lodge Keith Comiso General Manager Bozeman, MT

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers

Land Tawney President Missoula, MT

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vvilicensii, ivii

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bozeman, wn

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Sam Wike President Great Falls, MT

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The Missoulian Angler Fly Shop

Russell Parks Owner

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The Trout Shop Jerry Lappier President Craig, MT

Triple-M-Outfitters Mark Faroni Owner / Outfitter Dixon, MT

Turneffe Flats Resort (Belize) Craig Hayes

President Bozeman, MT

Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures

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Yellowstone Angler James Anderson Co-Owner / Manager Livingston, MT

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HuntingLife.com Kevin Paulson Founder / CEO Lincoln, NE

Recycled Fish Teeg Stouffer Executive Director Nebraska City, NE

Nevada (2)

Hendrix Outdoors Mont G. Adams

Partner Fallon, NV Sagebrush Chapter (Trout Unlimited)

Mike Caltagirone

President Reno, NV

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Fly Fish America magazine

Crispin Battles

Editor & Art Director North Conway, NH

On Target magazine Crispin Battles Editor & Art Director North Conway, NH

Thompson / Center Craig Cushman Director of Marketing Rochester, NH

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FlyfishMagazine.com Lee Murdock Publisher Medford, NJ

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Taos Fly Shop Nick Streit Owner Taos, NM

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Forestburgh, NY

North Flats Guiding, LLC

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Sales Manager - North America

Auburn, NY

Royal Wulff Products Douglas Cummings

President

Livingston Manor, NY

Theodore Gordon Flyfishers

Mark Romero

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Urban Angler, LLC Jonathan Fisher Managing Member

New York, NY

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The Green Drake

Stewart Gordon

Owner

Winston Salem, NC

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Jason Mitchell Owner / Guide

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National Leadership Council Representative

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Jon & Barbara Bauer

Owners Ashland, OR

Berkley Conservation Institute / Pure Fishing

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Conservation Director

Mulino, OR

Beulah Fly Rods James Shaughnessy

Owner

Medford, OR

Catch Magazine Brian O'Keefe

Owner

Powell Butte, OR

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Deschutes Angler Fly Shop

Amy Hazel Owner / Guide Maupin, OR

Deschutes River Camp

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ExpeditionMatch.com

Adam Hughes Owner Bend, OR

ffp Compound Rods

Phil Hager Owner Gresham, OR

Fish On! Fly & Tackle, LLC

Michael Unruh President Milwaukie, OR

Fly & Field Outfitters

Scott Cook Owner Bend, OR

Flywater Travel

Ken Morrish Co-Owner Ashland, OR

Homewaters Fly Fishing

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Eugene, OR

Jim Teeny, Inc. Jim Teeny President

Gresham, OR

Koffler Boats, Inc. Bruce & Elaine Koffler

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Lake in the Dunes Russell Scott Owner

Summer Lake, OR

Loon Outdoors Alan Peterson President Ashland, OR

Mainstream Outdoors

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Oregon City, OR

Morrison's Rogue River Lodge

Zac Kauffman

Outdoor Operations Manager

Merlin, OR

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Owner

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2Bonthewater Guide Service

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Chestnut Ridge Chapter (Trout Unlimited)

Scott Hoffman Treasurer Uniontown, PA

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No Brainer Expeditions

Glenn Burgess

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Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Ted Onufrak President Harrisburg, PA

The Fly Fishing Show Chuck Furimsky Director / Owner Rockwood, PA

South Carolina (1)

South Carolina Council (Trout Unlimited)

Meta Armstrong Council Chair Greenville, SC

South Dakota (4)

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Dakota Angler & Outfitter

Hans Stephenson

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The School of Fly Fishing

Katie Cole

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Lead, SD

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Strike King Lure Company

Allan W. Ranson

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Texas (6)

Departure Publishing

Tosh Brown Owner Austin, TX

Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation

Patrick Waters & Roger Turner

Directors Dallas, TX

Mountain Hideaway

Kyle E. Jones President Lubbock, TX

Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company David Leake & Brent Boone

Owners Dallas, TX

Temple Fork Outfitters

Rick Pope President Dallas, TX

Tosh Brown Photography

Tosh Brown Owner Austin, TX

Utah (3)

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Park City, UT

Western Rivers Flyfisher

Ken Davis Manager

Salt Lake City, UT

William Joseph Paul Swint Sales Manager West Jordan, UT

Vermont (1)

The Orvis Company

Perk Perkins

Chief Executive Officer

Sunderland, VT

Virginia (3)

Dusty Wissmath Fly Fishing

Dusty Wissmath

Owner

Bluemont, VA

Hanover Fly Fishers, Ltd. LLC

Harry W. Robertson, III

Owner

Hanover, VA

Murray's Fly Shop

Jeffrey Murray

Owner / Guide

Edinburg, VA

Washington (28)

Coastal Conservation Association Pacific NW

Gary Loomis

WA Chairman

Vancouver, WA

Deneki Outdoors Andrew Bennett

President

Seattle, WA

Emerald Water Anglers

Dave McCoy

Owner / Head Guide

Seattle, WA

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